

Patent
 Old Attorney's Docket No. 040070-438
 New Attorney's Docket No. 0119-019

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)
)
 Jacobus C. HAARTSEN) Group Art Unit: 2663
)
 Application No.: 09/348,495) Examiner: Soon D. HYUN
)
 Filed: July 7, 1999) Confirmation No.: 5322
)
 For: MULTI-MEDIA PROTOCOL FOR)
 SLOT-BASED COMMUNICATION)
 SYSTEMS)

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RESPONSE TO NONFINAL OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop Amendment
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The following remarks are presented as a complete response to the Office Action mailed on September 23, 2004.

Claims 1, 2, 4-13, and 15-28 remain pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

The allowance of claims 1, 2, 4-13, 15-21, 25, 26, and 28 is noted with appreciation.

Claims 22-24 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Altwater et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,875,184). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The invention addresses problems that arise when it is desired to use a shared communication medium to communicate both synchronous and asynchronous data. If the medium is configured to support only circuit switched connections, the delivery requirements imposed by the synchronous data can be met; however, this is wasteful of medium resources when asynchronous data is transmitted because the dedicated connection will often be left unused. Alternatively, configuring the medium to support only asynchronous data communication makes the most efficient use of the resource, but can result in unacceptable delivery times for the synchronous data.

The invention permits both synchronous and asynchronous communication links to be established on the same shared communication medium by dividing the communication

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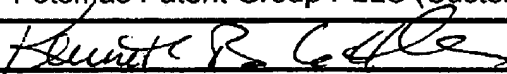
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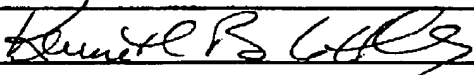
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| TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing) | Application Number | 09/348,495 |
| | Filing Date | July 7, 1999 |
| | First Named Inventor | Jacobus C. HAARTSEN |
| | Art Unit | 2663 |
| | Examiner Name | HYUN, Soon D |
| Total Number of Pages In This Submission | Attorney Docket Number | Old: 040070-438; New: 0119-019 |

| ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply) | | |
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| SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT | | | |
|--|---|----------|--------|
| Firm Name | Potomac Patent Group PLLC (Customer No. 000042015) | | |
| Signature |  | | |
| Printed name | Kenneth B. Leffler | | |
| Date | January 21, 2005 | Reg. No. | 36,075 |

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| Typed or printed name | Kenneth B. Leffler | Date | January 21, 2005 |

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.